From July 2024
(Volume 169)
GENOA#1

Cover Picture

Gargoyles in Garibaldi Street in Genoa

Lynn and I thought we'd celebrate our 60th wedding (Diamond) anniversary in a low key way, so we went to Genoa in Italy for five nights and despite the heat really enjoyed our stay. Taking the underground from here to Heathrow and then enjoying the lounge with all its great goodies prepared us for the short flight to Pisa. As it was a late flight we stayed in Pisa overnight and our hotel was literally opposite the station. Stupidly I mistook the train arrival time at Genoa as the departure time from Pisa so we missed the train and had to rebook the trip but enjoyed relaxing under some vines with drinks for the few hours waiting. Our first impression of Genoa was far from exciting but as it turned out the area round the station was fortunately not typical of the whole city..

A short taxi ride bought us to our modern hotel situated actually on the renovated old cargo harbour and afforded fantastic views all round . It was almost too hot to maximise sitting on our balcony and watching the boats being preened as they moored alongside. We were total amazed at the size of the daily cruise ships berthing a little way away. They were like massive vertical cities and dwarfed the old city of Genoa completely. There is a recently a lot of problems in tourist areas like Venice and Majorca etc where the vast influx of tourists make the whole environment unacceptable both for tourists and locals and these massive ships disgorging their human cargo daily takes some organising.

The hotel itself was justifiably proud of how the architects had faithfully followed their brief to retain the history of the area within its public spaces and the glass lighting ornaments and décor were really well thought out. The staff were delightful and went out of their way to ensure we enjoyed our stay.

I will detail more of how we spent our time in Genoa with relevant photos in the rest of the two books

On as personal level, our Larnie is slowly recovering from a long period of partial hospitalisation and then home rest taking antibiotics etc but it is taking its time for complete recovery . Tammy is so great at being head nurse.

DP has driven in his 'luxury' home to give a talk in Hungary and yesterday we heard from him that it had gone down really well so we are very pleased and proud.

The Paris Olympic celebrations have been partially dampened by protests against the forced removal of people sleeping rough to places well away from Paris. The Seine has been a source of E Coli so some swimming and water events have been effected. Transport hubs have also had disruption deliberately caused by activists so world wide we are witnessing a lot of unrest and aware that under the surface there is a lot of discontent.

Sometimes we feel guilt that we are still enjoying our life but realistically we can do little to change the world and our life style is not at the expense of others. I must admit that when I see able-bodied young people asking for change I often feel like shouting out "get a job...we worked hard all our lives in jobs that were often intolerable, but never sponged on others". Yes, I know this is a controversial viewpoint and admittedly we don't know their circumstances but we honestly feel that for some a 'begging' life style is far easier than working. There are many in this country that have never had a job and rely on benefits to provide them with all they need..

Anyway, before I wind you up any more, lets go onto world matters.

Terrible landslides in Kerala have left many buried under rubble with people using bare hands to dig for survivors.

The Middle East continues with casualties on both sides and as I said before, the world is taking sides without knowing the truth and continued bloodshed only fuels these biased views. Peace and compromise, unacceptable as it is to both sides is the only long term solution and this hopefully will prevent whole generations growing up with such hatred for one another.

In the UK , will our new government make a difference? I do hope so as there is also a growing feeling here that many of the UK population are not represented and this could lead to civil unrest.

Anyway, on with our travels

Photo History

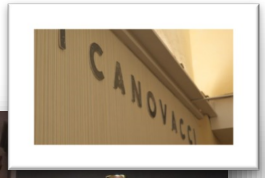
Ok, it may be corny but when this arrived, we were pretty chuffed

We are so pleased to hear that you are celebrating your Diamond Wedding anniversary on 26th July, 2024. This brings you our warmest congratulations and heartfelt good wishes on this happy occasion.

Charles R Camilla R

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kley

….and this totally great card from Judy and Ivor arrived at the same time (but not with a 'Buck House' postmark

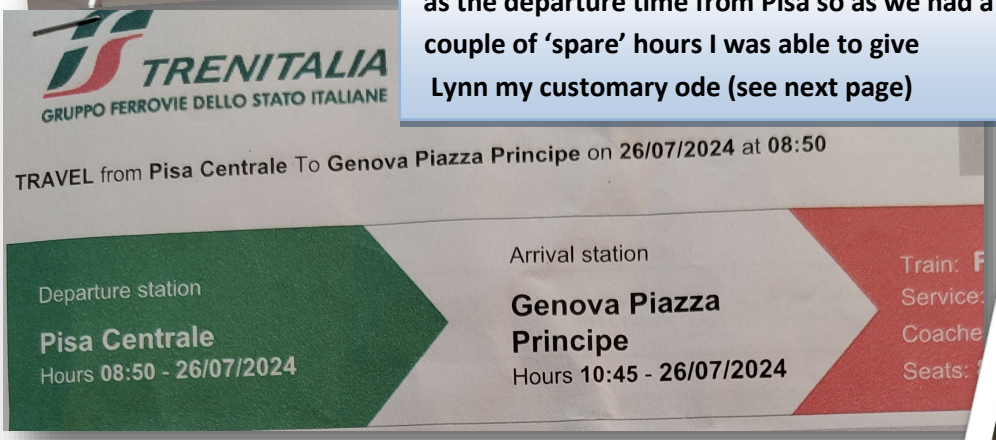


Sometimes , just by sheer luck we find a totally great small typical restaurant hidden away and the lunch and atmosphere here were wonderful

Galeone Neptune was right next to our hotel and it was built in 1986 as a film set for Roman Polanski's movie "Pirates". It is a beautiful reconstruction of a seventeenth-century fantasy sailing ship and is still able to sail and is still registered in the Tunisian Naval Register, and still flies the flag

Yes it's not a hub of activity but I found this view of Pisa main station , taken from our room opposite, in the middle of the night was very atmospheric

I stupidly mistook the train arrival time in Genoa as the departure time from Pisa so as we had a couple of 'spare' hours I was able to give Lynn my customary ode (see next page)



TRENITALIA
GRUPPO FERROVIE DELLO STATO ITALIANE

TRAVEL from Pisa Centrale To Genova Piazza Principe on 26/07/2024 at 08:50

Departure station
Pisa Centrale
Hours 08:50 - 26/07/2024

Arrival station
Genova Piazza Principe
Hours 10:45 - 26/07/2024

Train: F
Service:
Coache
Seats:

Ode to My Very Very Special Lynn

I know you don't think it's a special day

But there's one thing I have to say

60 years ago I was made a great decision

Obviously I had an inspired vision

Cos on that day I married you

My best decision that's blatantly true

So many years and so much fun

Lets hope there's still many miles to run

I love you so much I just had to say.

To be with now make this a very special day

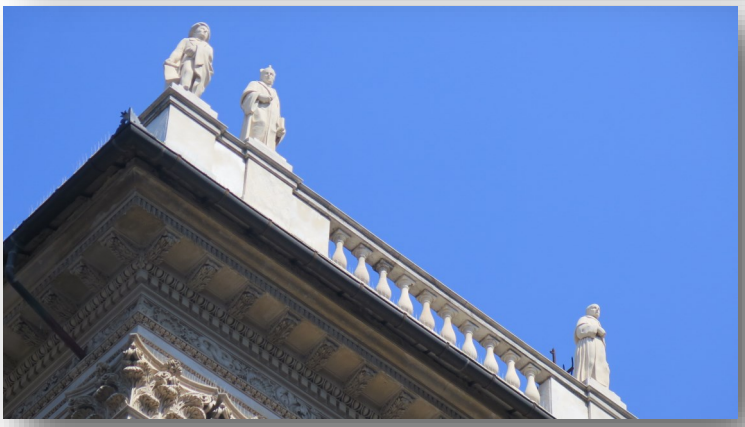
Darling..you are so very special and a great big thank you for all those magic moments that we have enjoyed together and hopefully for many more to come..Sloshy and sentimental I know, but I couldn't let today pass without a mini poem dedicated to the best thing in my life.. yes I know I have a great family etc but remember they are only there because of you…

We walked for hours in the heat (often getting totally lost) and the small alleys contrasting with the majestic streets of sumptuous palaces was a real visual treat

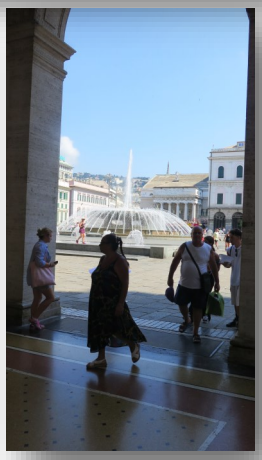
NH Collection (our hotel) situated on the marina adjacent to the aquarium

COMUNE DI GENOVA

These massive cruise ships dock at the old port buildings built in 1901 and which are ready for demolition. Luxury one side and dereliction on the other



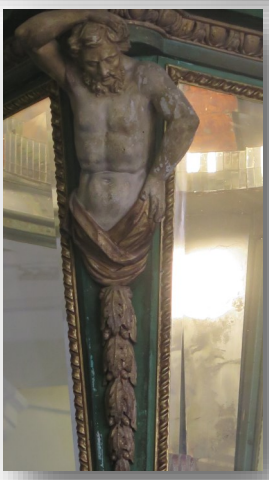
Plaza de Ferrari



TUTTE
LIBERE

The child's fascination with the 'frozen' man
Caffè del Duomo

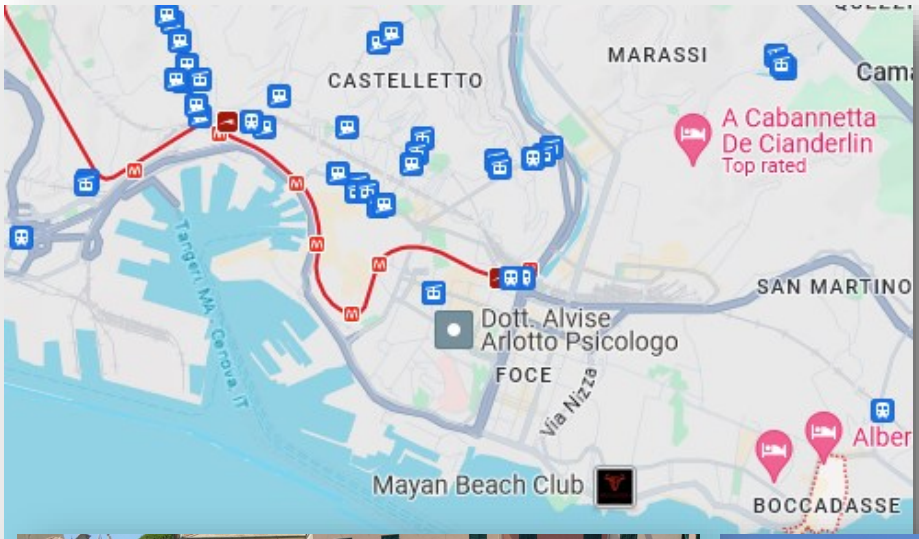
Photo History



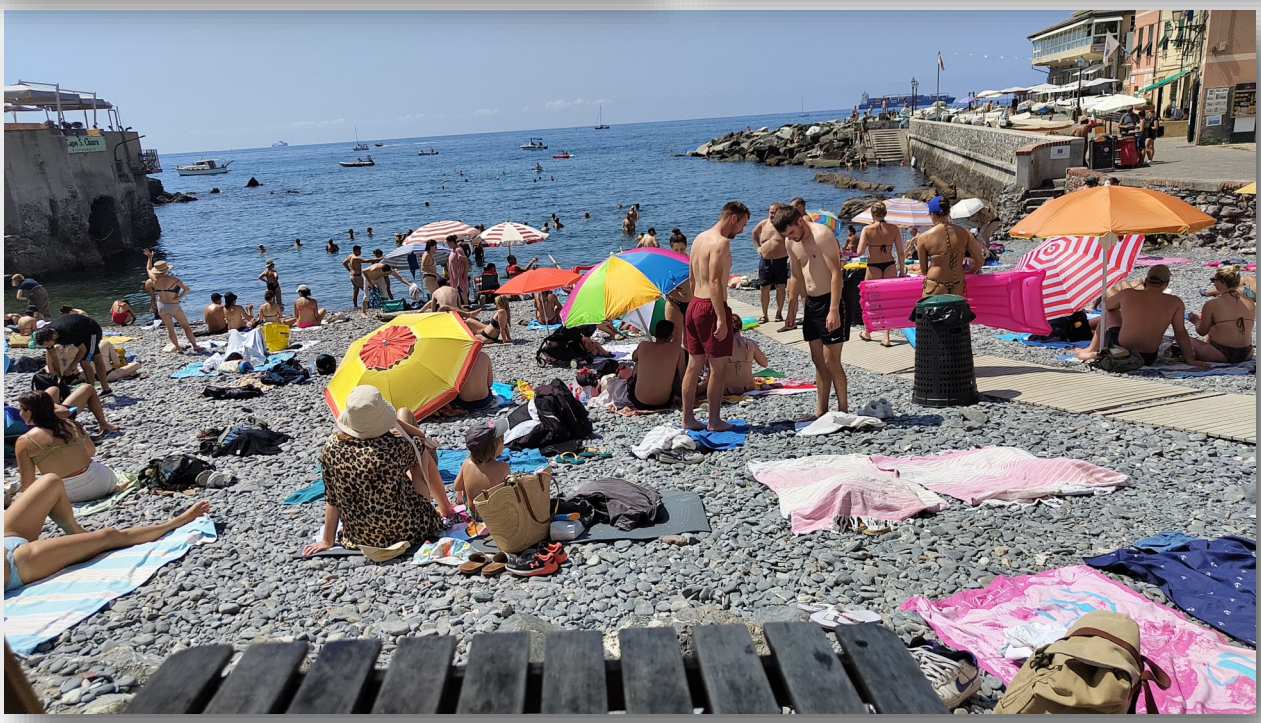
LIBERO E

Pesce

BAR
CAFFE BOASI
LA PIADINERIA
LA PIADINERIA
LA PIADINERIA



We took a local bus ride (about 20 minutes to Boccadasse which was a former fishermen's village, featuring pastel-colored houses with green shutters. Ice cream shops and relaxed bars skirting the small the pebble beach and harbour,



It was a non-touristy resort and very, very hot. Locals came with towels , flip flops for the stoney beach and most bought picnics

"Wow Mum...look at those fantastic costumes"